

Arizona Forest Health Council
Notice of Public Meeting of a Public Body
Sections 7.6, 7.7.4 and 7.9.1
NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING OF THE –
Arizona Forest Health Council

Pursuant to A.R.S. Section 38-431, notice is hereby given to the members of the Arizona Forest Health Council and to the general public that the **Arizona Forest Health Council** will hold a meeting open to the public:

Arizona Game & Fish Department, Region II Office
Large Conference Room
3500 S Lake Mary Road
Flagstaff, AZ 86001
Thursday, July 12, 2012
9:30 am – 2:00 pm
Tele Conference Number: 1-877-820-7831
Passcode: 219418#

Minutes (draft)

1. Call to Order – 9:30 am Co-Chair, Scott Hunt

Members Present:

Co-Chair Scott Hunt, Don Berry, Wally Covington, Steve Gatewood, Bruce Hallin, Kevin Kinsall, Steven Rosenstock, Sue Sitko, and Ron Williams.

Members via Tel-Conference:

Robert Davis

Members Absent:

Ethan Aumack, Pascal Berlioux, Kent Bushman, Mark Herrington, Todd Schulke, Darrell Willis

Public:

Paul Kutz, Attorney General's Office; Jerry Payne, Deputy State Forester; Patrick Rappold, Arizona State Forestry Division; Kevin Boness, Arizona State Forestry Division; Rich Van Demark, Southwest Forestry, Inc.; Diane Vosick, Alternate; Mike Cooley, Pioneer Forest Products; Jerry Bills, Deputy Fire Chief Flagstaff Fire Department; Kevin Burke, Flagstaff City Manager and Beth Nehring Arizona State Forestry Division.

Co-Chair Scott Hunt welcomed the Forest Health Council members and guests in attendance.

2. Approval of the Minutes from the March FHC Meeting ~

- Don Berry moved for approval; Steve Rosenstock second.
- Steve Gatewood asked for a correction on last page under "Smoke Issues"
- Minutes were approved as corrected.

3. **Council Representation Update ~ Scott Hunt**

- Scott reported that following positions are now vacant:
Mayor Sara Presler is no longer in office. New Mayor Jerry Nabours may be interesting in filling the role. Forest Service Representative Christine Dawe has taken a new position in Idaho. Industry Representative Pascal Berlioux it is uncertain if he is remaining on the FHC. Rural Economic Development Representative Molly Pitts has moved. Bill Greenwood who replaced Molly at Northern Arizona Wood Products is interested in filling the opening.
- Board & Commissions has applications for John Randy Ogden, Fire Chief Mt Lemmon Fire District, Rosalyn Boxer, VP of Workforce Development, AZ Commerce Authority and Larry Fisher of University of Arizona. Scott has asked David Cook of Globe to be our Rancher Representative. He is also looking at Navajo Reservation for a Native Community Representative.
- Steve Gatewood asked if alternates needed to complete applications. It was determined by Linda Stiles that they only needed a letter on file in our records indicating who the alternate was.
- Jerry Payne, Deputy State Forester was introduced. Between Jerry and Patrick we have good knowledge for the forest industry and community.

4. **State of the State Report ~ Kevin Kinsall/Scott Hunt**

- ***Enacted Forestry Legislation*** ~ Scott reported that copies of the enacted legislation were in the folders. Scott reviewed the following enacted legislation: SB1231; SB1237; HB2494; SB1075. He also reviewed two propositions that will be on the November ballot – Proposition 119 and Proposition 120.
- Scott reported that the Forestry Division received an additional \$1 million increase for funding the fire suppression fund.
- ***2012 Fire Season*** ~ Fire season has seen 963 fires statewide, burning 134,000 acres to date. The ten year average is 2,500 and 350,000 acres per year. State and private fires are 142 for 8,000 acres. The past couple of years we have seen less roadside fires which could be down due to the fire safe cigarettes. The largest fire was the Gladiator, in Crown King. A lot of summer homes in the area with 345 homes evacuated. A FEMA request was submitted and denied three times. We will be appealing this denial. Sunflower was caused by target shooting. Montezuma was a 1700 acre fire on the Tohono O'odham. The 257 was a 3,000 acre fire on the Tonto National Forest threatening Devil's Canyon, Top of the World, mining operations. The Poco Fire shutdown APS and SRP power lines.
- Monsoon season is here so we don't expect any larger fires in most areas. Mohave County area has not had enough rain to make a difference.
- Fire outlook – Colorado has received precipitation. Montana, California, Nevada, Wyoming, and Idaho are having a hot fire season. Forest Service fire suppression funds may run out which could hurt other program funds such as 4FRI. Jim Hubbard, Deputy Forest Service Chief has stated that they will not manage fires for multiple objectives this year.
- ***Grants*** ~ The 2013 Western Wildland Urban Interface Grants are posted on our website. They are due on August 3. Please get the word out to submit for

them. Also the Volunteer Fire Assistance Grants for training and equipment our posted and is due on August 13. The Western Competitive Grant we apply for. These are anything forestry related, CWPP, stewardship, innovative and collaborative. If you have a collaborative project, talk to Scott or Jerry. Steve Gatewood asked if the WUI grants had been awarded. Yes, but we have not received the monies.

- Ron Williams asked for an update on WUI code communities and CWPPs. There are six communities that have adopted the WUI code. CWPP – Sierra Vista is working on a plan. Kevin Boness stated that some are under current revisions. We also have 45 Firewise communities.
- Jerry Payne has substantial background in grants. He will review them and offer comments for anyone who asks.

5. 4FRI Contract Briefing ~ Pioneer Associates

- Mike Cooley was introduced representing Pioneer Associates. He handles the operational side of the project. Marlin Johnson will handle the forestry side. The location of the operation will be in the city of Winslow so they can work close with the BNSF railroad and I-40 for trucking. He had spoken with Sue Sitko regarding training. On Wednesday he received a call and the first logging will be in January 2013. Timber will be going to the Heber sawmill and Snowflake power plant. Fourteen months later they will begin sending logs to Winslow. The engineer is working on the design. Concord Blue will have the first biomass to diesel plant operating in the US. Twenty-four logs per minutes will go thru the milling process. Logs will be cut to create panels.
- It is estimated that 1.1 million tons on an annual basis will be taken. Twenty six percent of the state is in forested woodland cover;
- Scott asked when ground breaking would take place. It must be eight months after the contract which would make it January 2013. Diane stated that in regards to the forest operations, the contract requires that 12% of the logging includes using loggers in the area. Logging businesses could grow with this process. Large companies may also come in.
- It was confirmed with Mike that within 14 months of the funding cutting should begin. We would be looking at January 2013. Jerry asked what the FHC could do to help. Mike stated that the healthy forest incentives will make the 4FRI a successful endeavor. Support the workforce training. They are supportive of the 4FRI training. Mike also stated that we need to have an outreach program.
- Wally Covington stated the FHC can help with a range of topics - What does it mean to the wildlife and water. Pioneer needs to explain what it means to the community.
- Steve Gatewood stated that utilization is a bio-product of Forest Health. Monitor this over the ten year contract. The FHC would like to know what it is doing and who will they provide reports to. Mike stated that monthly reports will be going to 4FRI and the FHC. Last month was quick and fast. Steve suggested that Pioneer be an appointee of the FHC. Also invite the FHC to the ground breaking. Scott stated that there was room on the FHC for Marlin or himself. He would like to see Pioneer stay engaged with the FHC.
- Don Berry asked what negotiation was happening with the sawmill in White Mountain Apache being reopened. Mike stated that they are looking at refiring

it back up and operating under a third party. Jerry stated that the headrig and scragg mill equipment may be updated.

6. Flagstaff Forest Restoration Bond ~ Kevin Burke, City Manager

- Kevin Burke stated that he had created a sustainability cabinet that Paul Summerfelt was a member of. The cabinet reviewed the possibility of payments for watershed services – water supply and flood control.
- Kevin gave a power point presentation (which was distributed) covering the bond issue. Issues covered were: what is the problem we are trying to solve – mitigate fire and flood threats. These threats are not new. The 4FRI project is a fantastic project. Schultz fire elevated awareness in Flagstaff. What happens in the next 10 years? What are the values of the bond? What will the financial cost be? And why use city dollars to support implementation of treatments on federal and state land?
- Bruce Hallin asked if they were going into a partnership agreement with the Forest Service (MOU, task orders, participating agreements)
- Scott wanted to know how Kevin thought the vote would go. Tuesday, they called the question to put this on the November ballot and passed 6-1. The citizen vote is optimistic based on no evidence. Kevin stated that this is getting support in Washington DC.

7. Forestry Industry Workforce Training ~ Sue Sitko

- With the 4FRI project underway, can we develop ecological curriculum within the program to facilitate a workforce training program with wood harvesters. A Forest Restoration for the Future and Developing a Wood Harvester Workforce Training Program were distributed. The Forest Restoration for the Future covers the following categories: new technology to reduce costs and improve results; training to develop a skilled workforce and increasing transparency and facilitating continuous improvement in business practices.
- Developing a Wood Harvester Workforce Training Program session will be held on August 2, 2012 in Flagstaff. This will be to layout the needs of the Pioneer Forest Products. Various resources will be looked at. Discussion with the Commerce Authority. Work out a process and develop an action plan.
- A thank you went out to The Nature Conservancy for their important role with 4FRI. Sue would like to stay involved with the training. Steve recommended a partnership with the field and on-the-job training. Sue will work with the Forest Service to do a beta test with the White Mountain Stewardship folks.

8. Healthy Forest Incentives Overview ~ Patrick Rappold

- Patrick presented a recap of HB2332, signed on May 11, 2012 which extended tax incentives to small and large contractors. There is a tax exemption on purchased and leased equipment; red dye and diesel fuel; and a \$3,000 tax credit on training employees for forest restoration.
- An overview of the bill and HB2332 will be emailed to FHC members.
- Sue asked if money would be their expenditures. Don Berry asked how often they would need to apply. Scott stated they would sign up for 5 years or do yearly. Fuel incentive will be thru ADOT. They will work with us and the Commerce Authority.

- Steve Gatewood stated that the local economic development group can help with grants. Commerce Authority must be available to help.
- Patrick will be creating a one page flyer handout for Healthy Incentives.

9. **Forest and Watershed Restoration Fund Update** ~ Diane Vosick

- In January an informational group was formed to identify and enhance forest restoration and funding. We are working together to identify ways. On August 16 at Hart Prairie Reserve there will be an oversight meeting to develop a template for requests for proposals. There is no money but a desire to create. Brainstorming ways in which funding can be implementing. Develop metrics. Contact Marcus or Diane if interested.

10. **Working Group Updates**

- ***Coordination Oversight Group/ Climate***
 - Nothing to report
- ***Forest Plan Revisions ~ Diane Vosick***
 - Completed
- ***Smoke Issues ~ Steve Gatewood***
 - Nothing to report
- ***Interaction with WGA ~ Scott Hunt***
 - Forest Health Committee with the National Association of Counties advantage to promote models of managers. Fire Policy Resolution 1201 to fund the Flame Act passed. A letter was sent from the WGA and the four western states to the delegation regarding fire management funding and the maintenance of air tankers.

11. **Attorney General's Office – Public Body Meeting Training** ~ Paul Katz

- Paul Katz came in place of our regular AG Joy Henbrode. Paul is available for advice to the FHC. 602-542-7785 paul.katz@azag.gov
- Paul spoke on the opening meeting law ASR §38-431. By statute each member of the FHC is to review this portion of the Attorney General's Agency Handbook http://www.azag.gov/Agency_Handbook/ch07.pdf on Open Meeting laws within 24 hours of your appointment.
- His review of today's council meeting showed no issues with open meeting law adherence. You are an advisory council making recommendations to the Governor and the State. The legislative intent of the open meeting law is how the business of the council is done. Public notice must be made. Add Executive session to the agenda for purposes of legal advice. You must stick to the agenda. The chair can entertain a motion for it to be added to the next agenda. The Attorney General's Office or a private person can bring an action against the members of the FHC for violating the open meeting law. The FHC members could be personally sued.
- A work group of FHC members or their working group meeting is in violation unless it is under 9. Emails perpetuating open meeting violations can occur if all members are contacted. Don't send out a report prior to a meeting. It is in violation of the open meeting law.

12. **Call to the Public** ~ None

13. **Meeting Schedule and Locations**

- September 13, 2012 will be in Flagstaff. This will be a working meeting on the future of this council. What is our role? Develop work plans. What is our primary goal?
- November 8, 2012 will be in Tucson

This is the time for the public to comment. Members of the Board may not discuss items that are not on the agenda. Therefore, action taken as results of public comment will be limited to directing staff to study the matter or scheduling the matter for further considerations and decisions at a later date.

*Dated this July 18, 2012
Arizona Forest Health Council
<http://www.governor.state.az.us/FHC/>*